

OLC 78-0399/109

16 August 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 3 August 1978 Intelligence Charter Legislation Hearing

1. On 3 August 1978 the undersigned attended an intelligence charter legislation (S. 2525) hearing at which the following individuals testified:

- a. General Samuel Wilson, former Director, DIA
- b. General Russel Dougherty, former Chief, Strategic Air Command, and
- c. Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, former Chief of Naval Operations

Senator Goldwater (R., Ariz.), Vice Chairman of the Committee, presided. Other Senators at the hearing were Senators Huddleston (D., Ky.), Chafee (R., R. I.) and Wallop (R., Wyo.)

2. Overall, while Generals Wilson and Dougherty were supportive of the legislation, urging the Committee to look further into the need for improvements in the national-tactical intelligence arena, Admiral Zumwalt was decidedly negative with regard to the very idea of intelligence charter legislation.

3. General Wilson made the following points:

--With 30 years of intelligence experience behind us, intelligence charter legislation at this time would be both timely and helpful.

--From the standpoint of cost and quality of intelligence, the reporting requirements of S. 2525 must be reviewed with a view to simplifying and trimming them down.

--The reporting requirements evoke security questions in view of the proliferation of sensitive intelligence information that will result therefrom.

--In addition extensive reporting requirements may tend to "put Congress in the position of practically running the intelligence as opposed to providing the legislative basis and subsequent oversight."